Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 091798

44
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 DEAE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 SY-05

TRSE-00 NSC-05 OES-05 OMB-01 AID-05 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 L-02 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /078 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/EP/E:WSCLARKE:JH
APPROVED BY ARA/EP:JFKING
---------- 119794
O 221420Z APR 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LIMA

UNCLAS STATE 091798

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SNAR, EC, US

SUBJECT: NEW YORK TIMES SERIES ON NARCOTICS TRAFFIC

1. NEW YORK TIMES BEGAN FOUR PART SERIES 21 APRIL UNDER HEAD: "LATINS NOW LEADERS OF HARD-DRUG TRADE - OPERATORS OF RINGS SUPPLYING U.S. VIRTUALLY IMMUNE FROM PROSECUTION". ARTICLE INDICATES THAT DRUG TRAFFIC SHIFTED TO LATIN AMERICA FOLLOWING GREATER CONTROL EFFORTS IN EUROPE AND TURKEY. FOLLOWING ARE REFERENCES TO ECUADOR IN FIRST ARTICLE:

2. ,TYPICAL OF THE SITUATION IS THE CASE OF LUIS RIVADENEIRA OF ECUADOR, WHO WAS ARRESTED THERE LAST DEC. 16 WITH TWO KILOS (4.4 POUNDS) OF COCAINE PASTE IN HIS POSSESSION. SOON AFTER HIS ARREST, ACCORDING TO AUTHORITIES, ADM. ALFREDO POVEDA BURBANO, ECUADOR'S MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT,
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 091798

WHO DIRECTS ALL LAW-ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN THE COUNTRY,

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

CALLED THE POLICE AND ORDERED THEM TO CHANGE THE EVIDENCE AGAINST MR. RIVADENEIRA SO THAT THE CHARGES AGAINST HIM WOULD HAVE TO BE DISMISSED. "ADMIRAL POVEDA EXPLAINED HIS ORDER BY SAYING THAT RIVADENEIRA WAS A CLOSE RELATIVE OF A FRIEND OF HIS - ANOTHER ADMIRAL", SAID A POLICE CAPTAIN. THE POLICE COMPLIED."

3. "THE HUGE PROFITS TO BE MADE BY TRANSPORTING COCAINE FROM LATIN AMERICA TO NEW YORK ALSO MAKE IT CLEAR WHY SO MANY ARE WILLING TO TAKE THE RISK. IN NEW YORK CITY A KILO OF COCAINE IS SOLD ON THE STREET FOR BETWEEN 75,000 DOLLARS AND 100,000 DOLLARS. IN LA PAZ, BOLIVIA, THAT SAME KILO WOULD COST ONLY 4,000 DOLLARS; IN LIMA, PERU, 5,000 DOLLARS; IN QUITO, ECUADOR, 6,000 DOLLARS; IN BOGOTA COLOMBIA, 7,500 DOLLARS AND IN BUENOS AIRES, 8,500 DOLLARS (NORTH AMERICAN CUSTOMERS ARE CHARGED 15 TO 30 PER CENT ABOVE THESE GOING RATES.)."

4. "PERU, THE OTHER COCA-PRODUCING COUNTRY IN LATIN AMERICA, EXPORTS MOST OF ITS COCA PASTE TO ITS NORTHERN NEIGHBORS, ECUADOR AND COLOMBIA. IN ECUADOR THE MAJOR COCAINE RINGS OPERATE OUT OF QUITO, THE CAPITAL, AND GUAYAQUIL, THE PRINCIPAL PORT. ECUADORIAN TRAFFKERS NOW SEND MORE THAN 100 KILOGRAMS OF COCAINE A MONTH TO THE UNITED STATES, ACCORDING TO WALTER WHITE, HEAD OF DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION'S OFFICE IN QUITO. A FALTERING EFFORT. THE POLICE IN EUCADOR HAVE NOT BEEN CONSIDERED EFFECTIVE AGAINST THE DRUG TRAFFICKERS. AS IS CUSTOMARY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY'S VARIOUS POLICE FORCES, OFFICERS IN THE NARCOTICS UNIT ARE TRANSFERRED TO OTHER DUTIES EVERY FOUR MONTHS AND THEY ARE NEVER ON THE JOB LONG ENOUGH TO LEARN HOW TO MAKE MAJOR DRUG CASES. A REORGANIZATION LAW FOR THE POLICE WAS DRAFTED MORE THAN A YEAR AGO THAT ESTABLISHED TWO-YEAR TOURS OF DUTY FOR NARCOTICS WORK. BUT THE LAW KEEPS BOUNCING FROM MINISTRY TO MINISTRY WITHOUT BEING IMPLEMENTED. EVEN WHEN MAJOR DEALERS ARE ARRESTED IN ECUADOR, THEY OFTEN ARE ABLE TO AVOID PROSECUTION. "IF A TRAFFICKER IS A LANDOWNER OR A LAWYER OR AN IMPORTANT MAN, MANY JUDGES WILL DISMISS THE CHARGES AGAINST HIM NO MATTER WHAT THE EVIDENCE," SAID COL. TAR-
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 091798

QUINO NUNEZ, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT IN ECUADOR. "A PROFESSOR WAS CAUGHT WITH THREE KILOS OF COCA PASTE LAST SEPTEMBER AND THE JUDGE RELEASED HIM ONLY BECAUSE OF HIS POSITION." ECUADOR NOT ONLY PROCESSES COCAINE, IT ALSO PRODUCES OPIUM POPPIES. ACRES OF POPPIES ARE PLANTED EVERY YEAR IN REMOTE MOUNTAIN FIELDS, USUALLY MIXED WITH OTHER CROPS SUCH AS CORN OR BARLEY. "HEROIN IS NOT A SERIOUS PROBLEM IN ECUADOR NOW, BUT THE POTENTIAL IS

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

HERE," MR. WHITE SAID. HIS IMMEDIATE CONCERN, HE SAID, IS TO PERSUADE ECUADORIANS TO STRENGTHEN CONTROLS ALONG THEIR BORDERS WITH PERU AND COLOMBIA. "TONS OF PASTE COME UP FROM PERU WITH LITTLE INTERFERENCE AND A LOT OF IT MOVE S ON UP TO COLOMBIA," HE SAID. "IF WE COULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE BORDERS, WE WOULD DISRUPT THE COCAINE TRAFFIC NOT ONLY HERE, BUT ALSO IN COLOMBIA, WHICH SENDS MORE OF THE STUFF TO THE UNITED STATES THAN ANY COUNTRY IN SOUTH AMERICA."" KISSINGER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG TRAFFIC, PRESS COMMENTS, TEXT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE091798
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WSCLARKE:JH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750140-0919
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750428/aaaaazxr.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 DEC 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 DEC 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <30 DEC 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW YORK TIMES SERIES ON NARCOTICS TRAFFIC
TAGS: PFOR, SNAR, EC, US, NEW YORK TIMES
To: QUITO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006